

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending. No claim amendments are presented, thus, no new matter is added.

In the Final Official Action, Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ludwig et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0225832, hereinafter Ludwig) in view of Yogeswar et al. (U.S. Pat. 7,035,468, hereinafter Yogeswar).

In response to the above noted rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 8 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1 recites a system for archiving a collaboration over a network, the collaboration having plural contemporaneous media streams, each media stream having a different media type and at least one media stream having a different start or stop time from another media stream. The system includes an input adapter operable to accept each media stream of the collaboration over a network interface, and

an archive engine operable to accept the contemporaneous plural media streams of the collaboration from the input adapter and ***to format the plural media streams of the collaboration for storage as a session by appending each of the plural media streams with time-relationship data that identifies a time relationship between the plural media of the collaboration...***

Independent Claim 8, while directed to an alternative embodiment, recites substantially similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 8.

Ludwig describes a multimedia collaborative system that integrates separate real time and asynchronous networks. However, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Ludwig does not disclose or suggest the “archive engine operable to accept the plural media of the

collaboration from the input adapter” of Claim 1. To cure this deficiency, the Official Action applies Yogeswar. Applicants, however, respectfully submit that Ludwig fails to teach or suggest the claimed features directed to the “archive engine” for which it is asserted as a primary reference under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Ludwig describes a multimedia collaboration system that integrates separate real-time and asynchronous networks - the former for real-time audio and video, and the latter for control signals and textual, graphical and other data - in a manner that is interoperable across different computer and network operating system platforms and which closely approximates the experience of face-to-face collaboration, while liberating the participants from the limitations of time and distance.¹

Ludwig, however, as admitted in the Office Action of March 21, 2007, fails to teach or suggest an archiving engine, whatsoever. Moreover, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest a system for archiving a collaboration over a network that includes “an archive engine operable to accept the contemporaneous plural media streams of the collaboration from the input adapter and *to format the plural media streams of the collaboration for storage as a session by appending each of the plural media streams with time-relationship data that identifies a time relationship between the plural media of the collaboration,*” as recited in independent Claim 1.

In rejecting the above noted claimed feature, the Office Action relies on paragraphs [0045-0046] of Ludwig. This cited portion of Ludwig describes that in a preferred embodiment, his system architecture employs separate real-time and asynchronous networks, as described above. These networks are interoperable across different computers, operating systems and network operating systems. The system architecture also accommodates the situation in which the user's desktop computing and/or communications equipment provides

¹ Ludwig, Abstract.

varying levels of media-handling capability. For example, a collaboration session may include participants whose equipment provides capabilities ranging from audio only or data only to a full complement of real-time, high-fidelity audio and full-motion video, and high-speed data network facilities.

Thus, Ludwig merely describes using different types of network to facilitate multimedia collaboration sessions between users. At no point does Ludwig teach or suggest that his system includes an archiving engine, much less an archiving engine that ***formats the plural media streams of the collaboration for storage as a session by appending each of the plural media streams with time-relationship data that identifies a time relationship between the plural media of the collaboration,***” as recited in independent Claim 1.

Yogeswar, the secondary reference, describes methods and an apparatus for archival storage and retrieval of audio/video information. The data archived in Yogeswar is archived in accordance with IAF. The IAF supported formats allow metadata to be incorporated with the encoded A/V data (e.g., as auxiliary data) without interfering with the ability of a decoder² The types of information used in Yogeswar include a) quality information; b) intended use information; and c) image source information.³ Using this information, Yogeswar automatically selects a video/audio encoding format and associated parameters suitable for an indicated user or application. Alternatively, the system can suggest formats/encoding levels to a system user for their review and approval.⁴

Fig. 2 of Yogeswar illustrates a flowchart 200 showing the steps of retrieving and distributing data stored in the archive. In step 208, information to be retrieved is located as a result of a search. Using the location information, user’s specified information in the form of an IAF encoded data is retrieved from the archive.⁵

² Yogeswar, col. 6, l. 44-col. 7, l. 22.

³ Id., col. 7, ll. 41-57.

⁴ Id., col. 8, ll. 21-25.

⁵ Id., col. 10, ll. 19-44.

In another embodiment of Yogeswar, an analysis and indexing module 314 receives A/V material in compressed digital form, and analyzes an index the received data using index 321 to create index information which can be used in searching and accessing the encoded data. The analysis and indexing module 314 can also retrieve existing archived IAF file content, thereby allowing indexing or reindexing to be done at any time.⁶

The IAF file of Yogeswar includes a compressed audio/video bitstream, plus ancillary metadata that describes, tags or otherwise specially marks the bitstream or bitstreams which are multiplexed with the metadata into the IAF file.⁷ The IAF file is supplied to an archive storage manager which is responsible for placing the file in the archive. Then, in step 116, the IAF file is stored on the archive media for future retrieval. After the IAF file has been stored, the archived generation process stops.⁸ The IAF file of Yogeswar includes one or more elements, *including a time code* (e.g., as per SMPTE). These time codes can be used *for synchronization and as access points*.⁹

However, Yogeswar does not disclose or suggest the “time-relationship data that identifies a time relationship *between the plural media of the collaboration*” that is recited in Applicants’ Claim 1. First, the time-stamp data of Yogeswar is largely undefined. However, Applicants interpret the time-stamp of Yogeswar to be an absolute time (i.e., defining a time-relationship between a single stream and a reference clock). Yogeswar does not disclose or suggest storing anything more than one stream. Thus, secondly, Yogeswar does not store relative time information (i.e., defining a time-relationship between a first stream and a second stream).

As none of the cited prior art, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all the elements of independent Claims 1 and 8, Applicants submit the inventions defined by

⁶ Id., col. 15, ll. 18-60.

⁷ Id., col. 9, ll. 52-55.

⁸ Id., col. 10, ll. 14-18.

⁹ Id., col. 16, ll. 35-48.

Claims 1 and 8, and all claims depending therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the asserted references for at least the reasons stated above.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

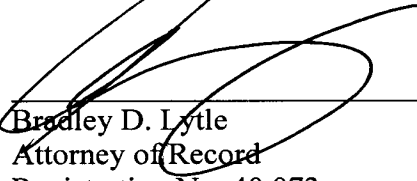
Respectfully submitted,

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